

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00507 250900Z

11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 EUR-25 DRC-01 /117 W

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R 250840Z MAR 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1558

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0507

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR CH NZ

SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR'S OBSERVATIONS IN SHANGHAI

1. BEGIN SUMMARY - NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR HARLAND FOUND SHANGHAI POLITICALLY CALM WITH POSTERS PRIMARILY INSIDE BUILDINGS. OFFICIALS WITH WHOM HE MET WERE RELAXED, FRIENDLY AND UNDOCTRINAIRE. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR HARLAND OF NEW ZEALAND HAS PASSED US A COPY OF HIS REPORT ON SHANGHAI WHICH HE VISITED LAST WEEK END WITH A NEW ZEALAND PING PONG TEA. FOLLOWING ARE SUBSTANTIVE PORTIONS OF HIS REPORT: BEGIN QUOTE -

3. WE WERE WELL RECEIVED. I CALLED ON THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE AND SAW THE MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE MEMBER FOR TRADE AND FINANCE - AN IMPRESSIVE YOUNG MAN CALLED HUANG, OF MUCH THE SAME TYPE AS WANG HUNG-WEN - CAME TO THE TABLE TENNIS MATCH
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PAGE 02 PEKING 00507 250900Z

I ATTENDED, AND WE HAD A GOOD TALK. BOTH WERE RELAXED,

FRIENDLY AND NOT UNDULY DOCTRINAIRE IN THEIR ATTITUDES. THEY SEEMED VERY MUCH PREOCCUPIED WITH THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MAN FIRMLY REJECTED THE SUGGESTION - WHICH I ATTRIBUTED TO THE FOREIGN PRESS - THAT SHANGHAI IS A STRONGHOLD OF RADICALISM.

4. THE TRADE COMMISSIONER AND I ALSO HAD MEETINGS WITH THE SHANGHAI FOREIGN TRADE BUREAU, AND WITH A NUMBER OF LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TRADING CORPORATIONS. THEY TOO WERE RELAXED, FRIENDLY AND UNDOCTRINAIRE. THE CHARTERING CORPORATION TOLD US THAT LAST MONTH THEY SENT A SHIP DIRECT FROM SHANGHAI TO NEW ZEALAND FOR THE FIRST TIME, BECAUSE CHINA'S EXPORTS TO NEW ZEALAND HAVE GROWN ENOUGH TO MAKE IT WORTHWHILE.

5. AS FAR AS I COULD TELL, SHANGHAI WAS POLITICALLY CALM. CERTAINLY THERE WERE NO OBVIOUS SIGNS OF TENSION. THOUGH MANY BIG CHARACTER POSTERS COULD BE GLIMPSED INSIDE BUILDINGS, THERE WERE VERY FEW ON THE STREETS. I WAS TOLD THEY HAD BEEN TAKENDOWN BECAUSE LIN PIAO AND CONFUCIUS WERE NOW BEING CRITICIZED "IN DEPTH" AND THIS MEANT THAT EACH ORGANIZATION HAD TO EXAMINE ITSELF. ONE CADRE TOLD ME THAT INDIVIDUALS WOULD BE CRITICIZED IF THEY HAD MADE SERIOUS MISTAKES.

6. I WAS TOLD REPEATEDLY THAT I WOULD BE WELCOME TO VISIT SHANGHAI AGAIN AT ANY TIME, AND THOSE WHO SAID IT SEEMED TO MEAN IT. MY FEELING WAS THAT, BY LINKING CHEYNE'S AND MY VISIT WITH THE TABLE TENNIS TEAM'S, WE WERE ABLE TO MAKE A BIGGER IMPRESSION THAN WE COULD OTHERWISE HAVE DONE. AND I THINK WE HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS TOWARDS ESTABLISHING A REGULAR CONNECTION WITH SHANGHAI. END QUOTE.

7. HARLAND ALSO MENTIONED THAT HE HAD ASKED A MEMBER OF THE SPORTS FEDERATION DURING THE RIDE TO THE AIRPORT WHAT THE STATUS WAS OF THE SHANGHAI JOURNAL "STUDY AND CRITICISM". HIS CHINESE HOST RESPONDED THAT "STUDY AND CRITICISM" IS "FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY" CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PEKING 00507 250900Z

AND DOES NOT HAVE THE POLICY FUNCTION THAT CENTRAL ORGANS SUCH AS "PEOPLE'S DAILY" AND "RED FLAG" HAVE. BRUCE

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